

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 18, 2006

**COSPONSOR THE “PROTECTING CHILDREN’S
HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2006”**

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to invite you to join us in introducing the “Protecting Children’s Health in Schools Act of 2006”, a bill that will ensure that children with disabilities can continue to receive the critical health services that are necessary for them to remain in school and receive an education.

Close to seven million children currently receive education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. Children with disabilities receive a number of services provided through school districts ranging from assistive technology for students with hearing disabilities to personal aides for students with several developmental and physical disabilities. These services are determined, based on a student’s medical needs, to be necessary for the “appropriate” education of that student. Since 1988, Medicaid has reimbursed school districts for arranging and delivering medical and health related services, the administrative costs associated with identifying Medicaid-eligible students and transportation to and from healthcare providers.

Unfortunately, this Administration has denied reimbursement for services provided in or through school settings and has provided inconsistent direction on appropriate methodologies for billing these services. Moreover, the Administration’s FY2007 budget proposes cutting reimbursement for Medicaid administration and transportation costs related to providing these services. Without the critical support and involvement of schools in the delivery of these health services, many children with disabilities would be unable to obtain the healthcare services they require to actively participate and learn in the classroom.

The Protecting Children’s Health in Schools Act would ensure that children’s access to needed Medicaid services in schools was protected. The bill would:

- Establish guidelines for ensuring school districts and third-party agents are held accountable for accurate Medicaid claims;
- Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish uniform methodologies for Medicaid claims submitted by schools;
- Provide full Federal matching payments to the school district if it incurred the full expenditure for services;

- Ensure that responsibilities for coverage and payment of school-based services is clearly delineated in Medicaid managed care contracts.

This legislation has the support of the American Association of School Administrators, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition, the Council of Great City Schools, and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, among other organizations.

We invite you to learn more about this important measure and to become an original cosponsor. A summary of the bill is attached for your review. If you have additional questions, please contact Amy Hall with the Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic staff at ext. 6-3400. If you would like to join us in sponsoring this bill, please contact Carla Hultberg at ext. 5-3641.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL



ED WHITFIELD



GEORGE MILLER

Attachment